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"THE MAN WHO CONQUERED ABILENE"

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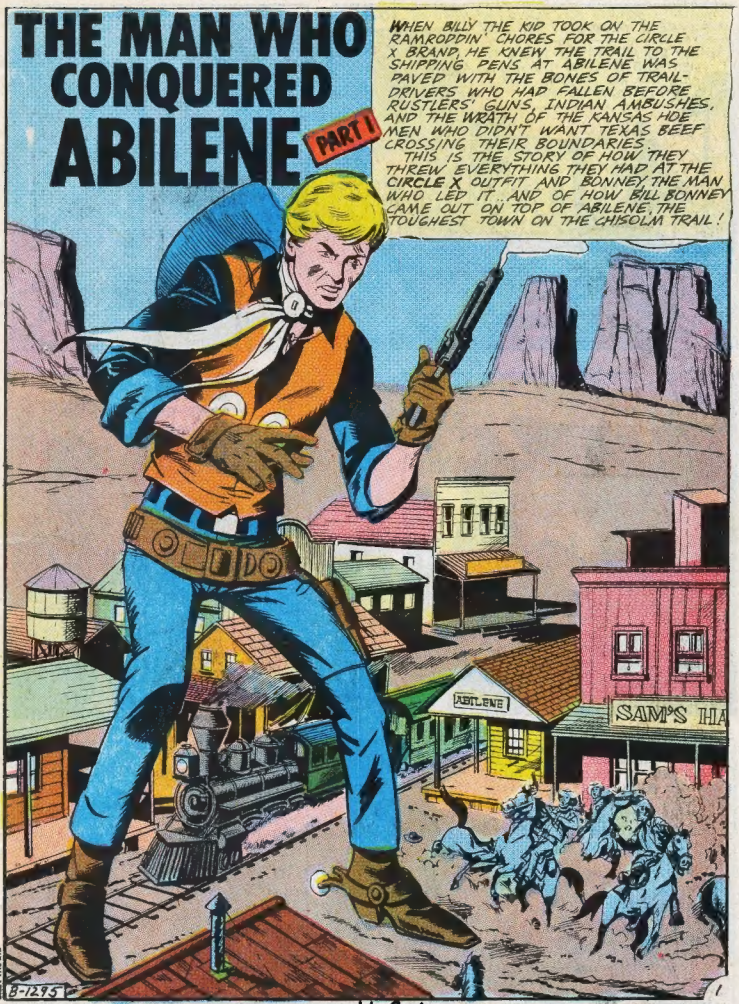
THE MAN WHO CONQUERED ABILENE
PART I
WHEN BILLY THE KID TOOK ON THE RAMRODDIN' CHORES FOR THE CIRCLE X BRAND, HE KNEW THE TRAIL TO THE SHIPPING PENS AT ABILENE WAS PAVED WITH THE BONES OF TRAIL-DRIVERS WHO HAD FALLEN BEFORE RUSTLERS' GUNS, INDIAN AMBUSHES, AND THE WRATH OF THE KANSAS HOE MEN WHO DIDN'T WANT TEXAS BEEF CROSSING THEIR BOUNDARIES. THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW THEY THREW EVERYTHING THEY HAD AT THE CIRCLE X OUTFIT AND BONNEY, THE MAN WHO LED IT. AND OF HOW BILL BONNEY CAME OUT ON TOP OF ABILENE, THE TOUGHEST TOWN ON THE CHISOLM TRAIL!
ABILENE
SAM'S
B-1295
BILLY THE KID

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nomscans~HaCsA~
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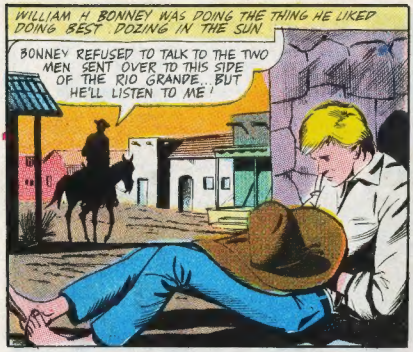
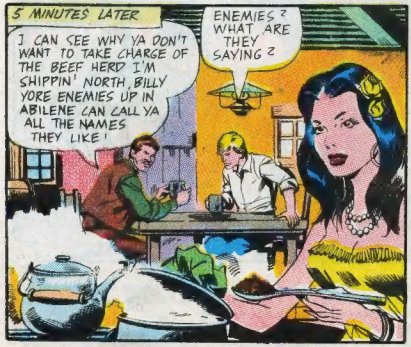

WILLIAM H BONNEY WAS DOING THE THING HE LIKED DOING BEST DOZING IN THE SUN
BONNEY REFUSED TO TALK TO THE TWO MEN SENT OVER TO THIS SIDE OF THE RIO GRANDE.. BUT HE'LL LISTEN TO ME!

A MAN WITH AS MANY ENEMIES AS YOU, BONNEY SHOULDN'T SLEEP THAT HARD!

SEE WHAT I MEAN, BILLY? WHAT IF I WHIPPED OUT MY IRON AND
YA BETTER NOT, AMIGO

I MIGHT PULL THE TRIGGER BEFORE I REMEMBER YOU AN ME IS OLD TRAIL PARDNERS
I SHOULDA KNOWED BETTER. BILLY GONNA INVITE ME TUH SET?


5 MINUTES LATER
I CAN SEE WHY YA DON'T WANT TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE BEEF HERD I'M SHIPPIN' NORTH, BILLY YORE ENEMIES UP IN ABILENE CAN CALL YA ALL THE NAMES THEY LIKE!
ENEMIES? WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

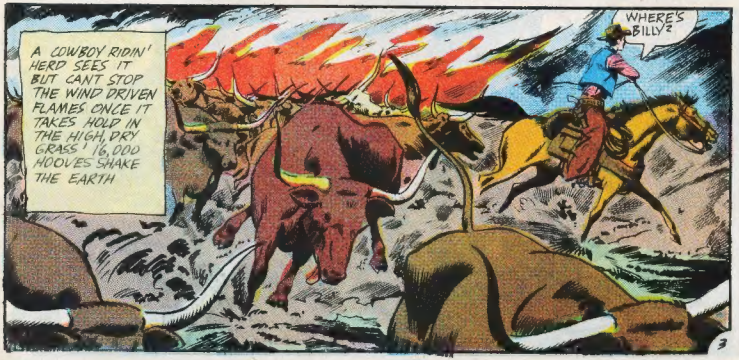
THEY SAY LAST TIME YUH WENT TUH ABILENE, THEY TOOK YA FOR PLENTY AT THE POKER TABLES AN' BACKED YA DOWN IN A SIX-GUN SHOWDOWN! YUH DON'T NEVER DARE COME BACK THERE AGAIN!
MURPHY, YA JUST HIRED YORESELF A TRAIL-DRIVER

3600 TEXAS LONGHORNS HEADED FOR THE RAILROAD AT ABILENE, KANSAS WITH RUSTLERS, HOSTILE INJUNS, AND CUSSED MEAN FOLKS DOGGIN' THE HERD EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!

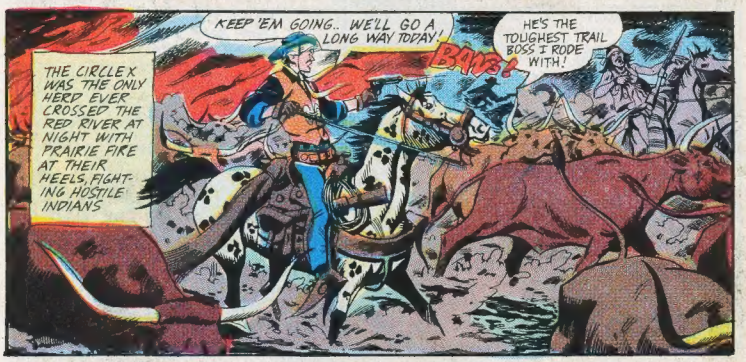
BILL BONNEY, TRAIL BOSSIN' THE CIRCLE X HERD, IS READY FOR ANY KIND OF TROUBLE...
BRING UP THE DRAG... WE'LL BUNCH 'EM TONIGHT AT THE RED RIVER!

MANY CATTLE. MAKE FIRE AT NIGHT, STAMPEDE CATTLE... TAKE SOME WHEN THEY RUN INTO CANYONS

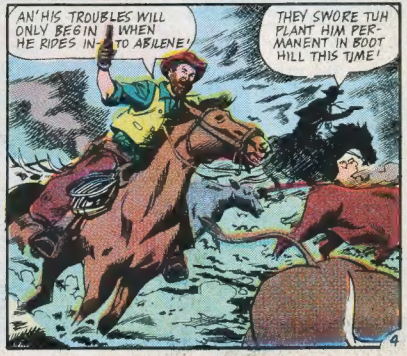
THAT NIGHT, THE SPOOKY HERD IS BUNCHED ON THE SOUTH BANK OF THE RED RIVER WHEN SUDDENLY A FLAME FLARES IN THE DARKNESS...
BLAM!

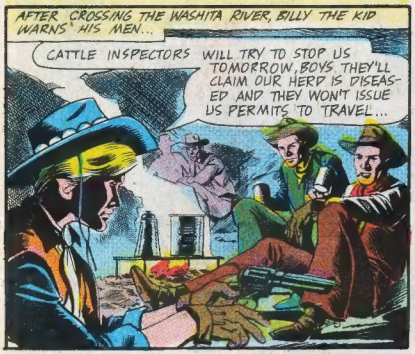

A COWBOY RIDIN' HERD SEES IT BUT CAN'T STOP THE WIND DRIVEN FLAMES ONCE IT TAKES HOLD IN THE HIGH, DRY GRASS! 16,000 HOOVES SHAKE THE EARTH
WHERE'S BILLY?

BILLY THE KID WAS ON HAND.. HIS BOOMING GUN SLAMMING TWO OF THE OSAGE OFF THEIR PONIES
TURN THE HERD NORTH! DRIVE 'EM TO THE RED RIVER!
BANG!
BANG!
BONNEY SAYS DRIVE 'EM INTO THE RIVER WE'RE GONNA CROSS THE HERD TONIGHT!


THE CIRCLE X WAS THE ONLY HERD EVER CROSSED THE RED RIVER AT NIGHT WITH PRAIRIE FIRE AT THEIR HEELS, FIGHTING HOSTILE INDIANS
KEEP 'EM GOING.. WE'LL GO A LONG WAY TODAY!
BANG!
HE'S THE TOUGHEST TRAIL BOSS I RODE WITH!

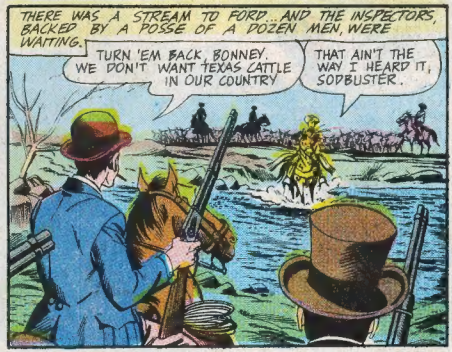
HE'S GONNA HAVE TO BE TOUGH THIS TRIP THEY'RE LAYIN' FOR THIS HERD ALL THE WAY TO KANSAS!


AN' HIS TROUBLES WILL ONLY BEGIN WHEN HE RIDES IN TO ABILENE!
THEY SWORE TUH PLANT HIM PERMANENT IN BOOT HILL THIS TIME!


AFTER CROSSING THE WASHITA RIVER, BILLY THE KID WARNS HIS MEN...
CATTLE INSPECTORS WILL TRY TO STOP US TOMORROW, BOYS THEY'LL CLAIM OUR HERD IS DISEASED AND THEY WON'T ISSUE US PERMITS TO TRAVEL...

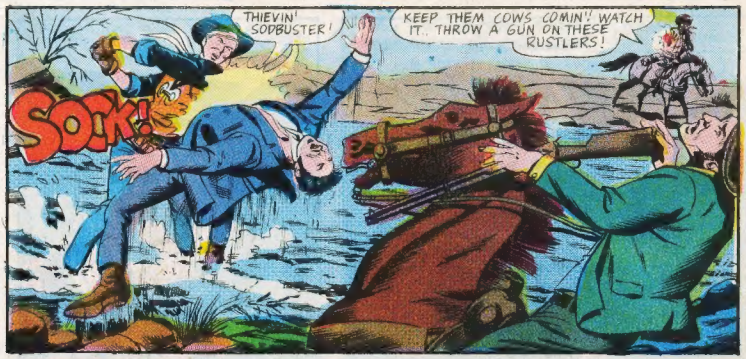
..UNLESS WE LET THEM TAKE HALF THE HERD! IN WHICH CASE THEY'LL CERTIFY THE COWS AS HEALTHY AN' LET US THROUGH.

YA GONNA LET 'EM CHEAT US, BILLY?
NOPE. MY JOB IS GETTIN' ALL THESE COWS TO ABILENE.. THAT'S WHAT I AIM TUH DO!


THERE WAS A STREAM TO FORD.. AND THE INSPECTORS, BACKED BY A POSSE OF A DOZEN MEN, WERE WAITING.
TURN 'EM BACK, BONNEY. WE DON'T WANT TEXAS CATTLE IN OUR COUNTRY
THAT AIN'T THE WAY I HEARD IT, SODBUSTER..

I UNDERSTAND YOU HOE MEN ARE STOCKIN' YORE SPREADS WITH STOLEN CATTLE! YEAH
A QUICK DRAW WON'T BEAT A BULLET OUTA THIS WINCHESTER BONNEY!

I DON'T AIM TUH DRAW AT ALL SODBUSTER
SOCK!


THIEVIN' SODBUSTER!
KEEP THEM COWS COMIN'! WATCH IT. THROW A GUN ON THESE RUSTLERS!
SOK!

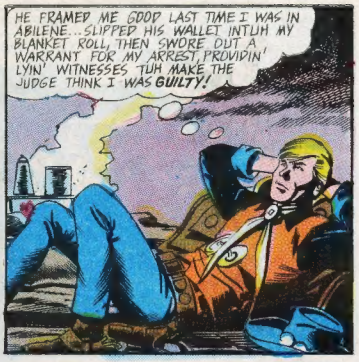
NOW YA GET THE IDEA HOMBRE!
YOU TRYIN' TA KILL 'IM BONNEY?

LET HIM ALONE, KILLER!
THAT'S WHAT YA WANT!

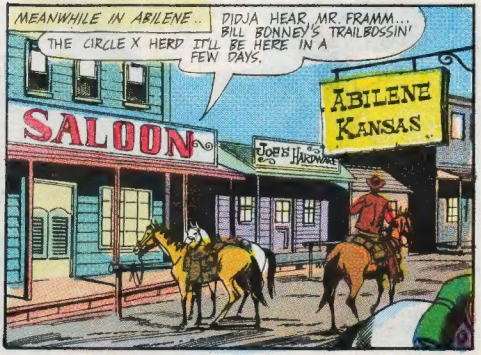
I'LL BE GLAD TA LET HIM ALONE!
YUH'RE WORSE THAN WE HEARD, BONNEY!
SPLASH!

THE OSAGE WERE BEATEN OFF, THE HOE MEN REASONED WITH, AND THE OCCASIONAL KIOWA RUSTLERS DISCOURAGED
ANOTHER WEEK AN' WE'LL BE IN ABILENE I GOT ENEMIES THERE AN' THE MAN BOSSIN' THEM IS A HYPOCRITICAL BIBLE THUMPIN' THIEF!

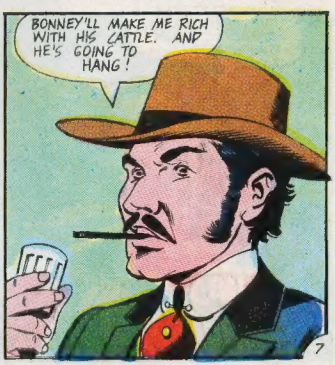
MARLOW FRAMM IS THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN I EVER MET! HE CAN USE A GUN.. BUT HE'D RATHER HIKE HIS KILLIN' DONE HE CAN FIGHT. BUT HIS PAIR MAULERS HANDLE THAT!

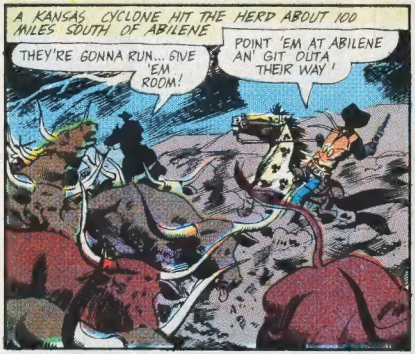

HE FRAMED ME GOOD LAST TIME I WAS IN ABILENE...SLIPPED HIS WALLET INTUH MY BLANKET ROLL, THEN SWORE OUT A WARRANT FOR MY ARREST, PROVIDIN' LYIN' WITNESSES TUH MAKE THE JUDGE THINK I WAS GUILTY!

THE JUDGE LET ME OFF..I RECKON HE GUESSED THE TRUTH ABOUT FRAMM...BUT I MAY NOT BE AS LUCKY THIS TIME!

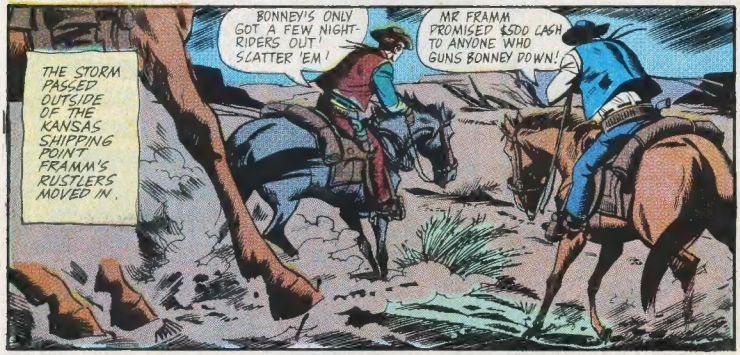

MEANWHILE IN ABILENE..
DIDJA HEAR, MR. FRAMM... BILL BONNEY'S TRAILBOSSIN' THE CIRCLE X HERD IT'LL BE HERE IN A FEW DAYS.
SALOON
ABILENE KANSAS
JOE'S HARDWARE

SEND A DOZEN MEN OUT TO RUSTLE SOME COWS. IF ONE OR TWO GET SHOT TRYING IT, THAT'LL SUIT ME FINE. BRING THE STOLEN BEEF UP AND PEN THEM IN THE PENS ALONGSIDE THE SIDING


BONNEY'LL MAKE ME RICH WITH HIS CATTLE. AND HE'S GOING TO HANG!


A KANSAS CYCLONE HIT THE HERD ABOUT 100 MILES SOUTH OF ABILENE
THEY'RE GONNA RUN... GIVE 'EM ROOM!
POINT 'EM AT ABILENE AN' GIT OUTA THEIR WAY!

WE'RE GITTIN' THERE QUICKER'N WE PLANNED!


THE STORM PASSED OUTSIDE OF THE KANSAS SHIPPING POINT FRAMM'S RUSTLERS MOVED IN.
BONNEY'S ONLY GOT A FEW NIGHT-RIDERS OUT! SCATTER 'EM!
MR FRAMM PROMISED $500 CASH TO ANYONE WHO GUNS BONNEY DOWN!

THE MINUTE I SEE BONNEY, I START PUMPIN' LEAD!

BUT BILLY THE KID WASN'T TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY THE RAID! HE'D BEEN WAITING IN THE DARKNESS AND HIS SIXGUN FLAMED FIRST!
BONNEY GOT CARKEL! LET'S GIT OUTA HERE!
BANG!
END PART 1

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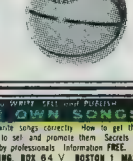

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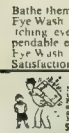

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PART II
ABILENE JUSTICE
FRAMM USED EVERY TRICK HE KNEW! HE BLOCKADED THE CATTLE TRAIL BUT BILLY THE KID DROVE HIS HERD RIGHT DOWN THE MAIN STREET OF ABILENE!
THE CITY MARSHAL WILL HAVE TO ARREST BONNEY FOR THIS!
KEEP 'EM MOVIN BOYS THE CATTLE CARS ARE WAITIN'... DRIVE 'EM INTO THE PENS
TOM'
MADE IT LOST ABOUT 100 STEERS BETWEEN THE CIRCLE X AN' HERE WHICH IS BETTER'N I EXPECTED!
'Y YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, BONNEY! COME ALONG W-WITH M-ME!
I'M A LAW ABIDIN' MAN, MARSHAL I'LL BE GLAD TO OBLIGE
9

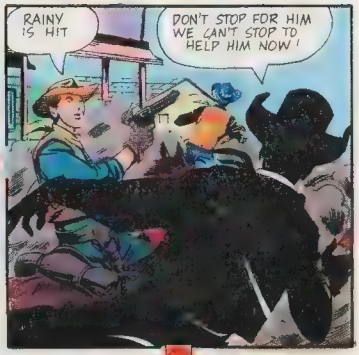
HOLD ON, MR. BONNEY. HERE'S YOUR CHECK FOR THE BEEF HERD $56,000 GIVE IT TO THE BANKER IN TOWN AND HE'LL GIVE YOU CASH FOR IT
I'LL HOLD THAT PAPER, MISTER!
THE JUDGE CAN ONLY SLAP ME WITH A FINE FOR DISTURBIN' THE PEACE.
WE GOT A NEW JUSTICE OF THE PEACE NOW...
R.W. KING JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
HIS NAME IS MARLOW FRAMM. THIS HERE TEXAS TRAIL-DRIVER DROVE 4,000 LONGHORNS DOWN THE MAIN DRAG, YOUR HONOR!
HELLO, BONNEY I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS MOMENT.
WHAT KIND OF TRICK IS THIS, FRAMM? WHERE'S THE REAL J.P.?
CAREFUL, FELLER JUDGE FRAMM CAN GIVE YOU A YEAR FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT IF HE FEELS LIKE IT
I'M GOING TO LET YOU GO BONNEY
CLICK!
JUST SIGN THE CHECK, BONNEY THAT'LL COVER THE AMOUNT OF YOUR FINE!
YOU'RE GOIN' TO DIE THIS TIME!

ALL ABILENE WAS AGAINST HIM BONNEY REALIZED.. THE SODBUSTERS, MERCHANTS, GAMBLERS, AND THIEVES!
PAY YOUR FINE BONNEY AND THEN SCOOT. TAKE YOUR SADDLEBUMS WITH YOU YOUR NOT WANTED HERE!
SIGN IT, BONNEY IF YOU MAKE TROUBLE YOU'LL GET STRUNG UP!
FOLKS KNOW HOW YA SHOT POOR POTSHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD THEY'RE IN THE MOOD FOR A NECKTIE PARTY! NOW, SIGN THAT CHECK!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY, FRIEND!
SHOOT HIM DOWN, MARSHAL!
LISTEN, BONNEY'S TRYIN' TO GET AWAY!
YOU FOOL! YOU WON'T LAST FIVE MIN.
UNGH!
SOCK!
HE WAS THE TARGET OF EVERY GUN.. BUT BILLY THE KID DIDN'T FIRE BACK AT ALL HIS ATTACKERS! A FEW WERE MISLED FOOLS AND THESE HE SPARED!
COME ON. BILLY THE KID IS IN A RUCKUS!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG
11

CIRCLE X... MOUNT UP
BANG!
BANG!

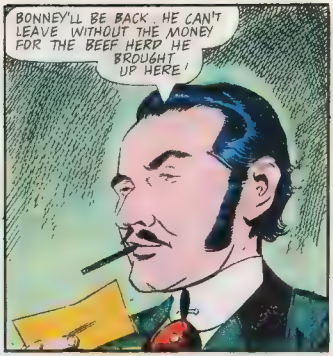
WHAT'LL WE DO, BILLY?
LET'S TEAR THIS TOWN DOWN AROUND THEIR EARS.

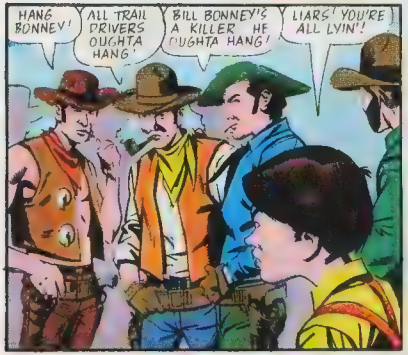
GUNFIRE RACED THE LENGTH OF THE DUSTY STREET. THE HAND OF EVERY CITIZEN OF ABILENE WAS AGAINST THEM!
THEY MURDERED MARSHAL STUART! SHOOT THEM OFF THEIR HORSES!
STICK TOGETHER THEY'LL HANG ANY OF US THEY CATCH!
BANG!
THESE TRAIL-HANDS SHOOT UP OUR TOWN EVERY TIME THEY HIT HERE!
BANG!


RAINY IS HIT
DON'T STOP FOR HIM WE CAN'T STOP TO HELP HIM NOW!

RECKON WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT BILLY THE KID IS TRUE! HE SURE TURNED COYOTE THIS TIME
COME ON. WE'RE NOT SAFE YET!

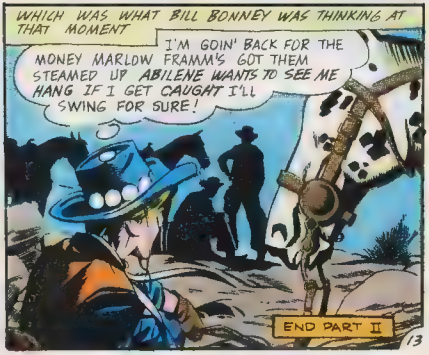
BONNEY GOT AWAY! I'LL GET UP A POSSE AND...
RELAX, MARSHAL!


BONNEY'LL BE BACK. HE CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT THE MONEY FOR THE BEEF HERD HE BROUGHT UP HERE!


HANG BONNEY!
ALL TRAIL DRIVERS OUGHTA HANG!
BILL BONNEY'S A KILLER! HE OUGHTA HANG!
LIARS! YOU'RE ALL LYIN'!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT BRAT?
MR FRAMM'S BEEN WAITIN' FOR BILLY THE KID. I HEARD HIM TELLIN' HIS MEN TO KILL BILLY!

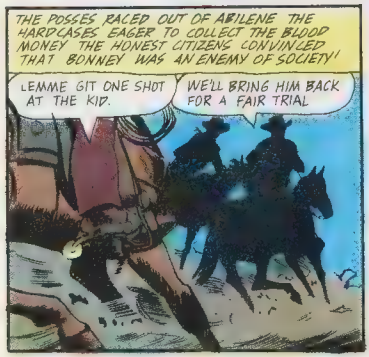
IT AIN'T RIGHT FOR A WHOLE TOWN TO PICK ON ONE MAN!


WHICH WAS WHAT BILL BONNEY WAS THINKING AT THAT MOMENT
I'M GOIN' BACK FOR THE MONEY MARLOW FRAMM'S GOT THEM STEAMED UP ABILENE WANTS TO SEE ME HANG IF I GET CAUGHT I'LL SWING FOR SURE!
END PART II

PART III

GALLOWS BAIT

BONNY'LL BE BACK TO ABILENE AND SOME LUCKY GENT'S GOING TO MAKE HIMSELF RICH BY CAPTURING OR KILLING HIM! I'M OFFERING $5,000 IN COOL CASH TO THE MAN WHO DOES THE JOB!
WE DON'T NEED A REWARD TO GO AFTER BONNEY, MR FRAMM HE'S A KILLER! HE DESERVES TO HANG!


THE POSSES RACED OUT OF ABILENE THE HARDCASES EAGER TO COLLECT THE BLOOD MONEY THE HONEST CITIZENS CONVINCED THAT BONNEY WAS AN ENEMY OF SOCIETY!
LEMME GIT ONE SHOT AT THE KID.
WE'LL BRING HIM BACK FOR A FAIR TRIAL

FRAMM'L. HAVE THE CHECK ON HIM. GOT TO GET THAT FIRST!

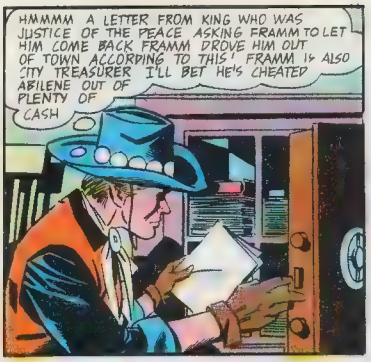
LUCKY TO FIND A WINDOW OPEN.

FRAMM HAD GUARDS AROUND HIS OFFICE BUT THEY DIDN'T EXPECT A VISIT FROM BILLY THE KID

SOCK!
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT YOU!

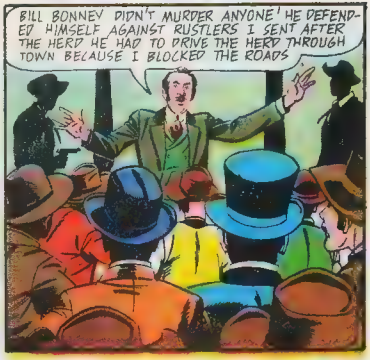
YEAH ME!
THUD!

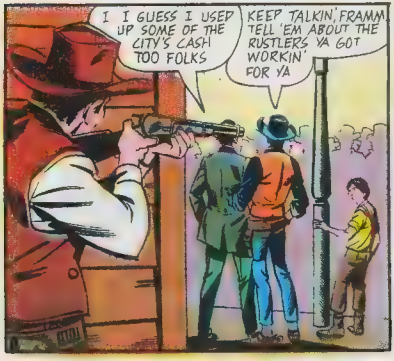
GOT THE CHECK THAT'S JUST THE FIRST STEP!
FRAMM'LL HAVE WARRANTS FOR MURDER GRAND LARCENY, AND SIDEWALK SPITTIN' ALL OVER THE COUNTRY IF I JUST HEAD SOUTH!


HMMMM A LETTER FROM KING WHO WAS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE ASKING FRAMM TO LET HIM COME BACK FRAMM DROVE HIM OUT OF TOWN ACCORDING TO THIS ! FRAMM IS ALSO CITY TREASURER I'LL BET HE'S CHEATED ABILENE OUT OF PLENTY OF CASH

W-WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ?
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL THE PEOPLE OF ABILENE A FEW FACTS MOVE

FRAMM'S HIRED GUNMEN DIDN'T DARE MAKE A MOVE
NOT NOW YOU FOOLS ! WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, BONNEY ?
EXPLAIN HOW THE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE LEFT TOWN AND TELL 'EM HOW YOU FRAMED ME, FRAMM !


BILL BONNEY DIDN'T MURDER ANYONE ! HE DEFENDED HIMSELF AGAINST RUSTLERS I SENT AFTER THE HERD HE HAD TO DRIVE THE HERD THROUGH TOWN BECAUSE I BLOCKED THE ROADS


I I GUESS I USED UP SOME OF THE CITY'S CASH TOO FOLKS
KEEP TALKIN' FRAMM TELL 'EM ABOUT THE RUSTLERS YA GOT WORKIN' FOR YA

YOU FOOL WHAT I SAID WON'T HELP YOU YOU'RE A DEAD MAN !
SHOOT HIM ZEKE !

ZEKE MISSED BECAUSE AN 8 YEAR OLD BOY BELIEVED IN FAIR PLAY AND KICKED THE MURDERER JUST AS HE PULLED THE TRIGGER! AND A HUNDRED ABILENE ROUGHNECKS JOINED ALONG THE STREETS OF ABILENE BILLY THE KID'S CIRCLE X CREW WAS BACK ALONG WITH OTHER TRAIL-RIDERS WITH A SCORE TO SETTLE!

THIS TIME I'LL FINISH THE JOB, FRAMM!

TRAIL-DRIVERS SHOOT 'EM!

LET'S CLEAN OUT THIS TOWN PROPER!

SOCK

YOU PAID KILLERS HAD IT ALL YO'RE WAY 'TILL NOW!

THEY'RE WRECKIN' THE CITY!

BANG

BANG!

GIT 'EM ALL! EVERY CROOKED DEALER, HOSS THIEF AN' RUSTLER IN ABILENE!

BANG BANG

BANG BANG

IT'S ROUND UP TIME. CROOKS, KILLERS, AND A FEW HONEST MEN WERE HERDED INTO THE ABILENE JAIL!

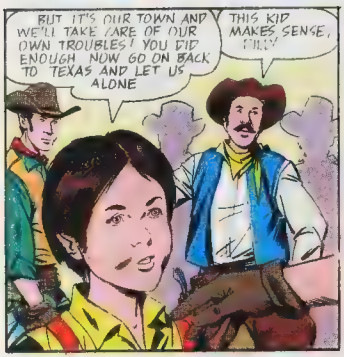
THEY FIGGERED THEY'D HANG ME? I'LL SEE THEM ALL HANG FIRST!

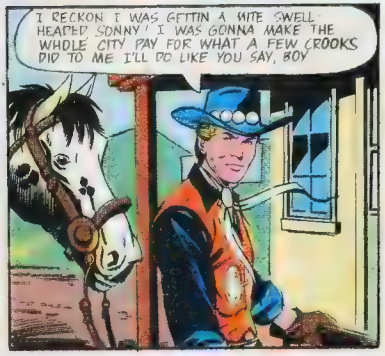
JAIL

WAIT A MINUTE, MR BONNEY! YOU CAN'T PUT JACOB SCHMIDT IN JAIL

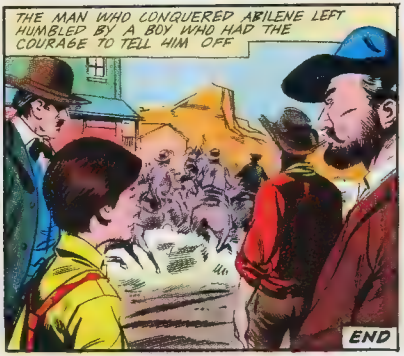
THEY ALL GO TO JAIL, SONNY!
NOT JACOB SCHMIDT! HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG
I SAVED YORE LIFE MR BONNEY, WHEN THAT MAN WITH THE RIFLE TRIED TO SHOOT YA!

I RECKON YA DID SON I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TALK POLITE A MINUTE AGO I'LL LET JACOB SCHMIDT GO!
MR. BONNEY LET THEM ALL GO THIS TOWN AIN'T MUCH-


BUT IT'S OUR TOWN AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN TROUBLES! YOU DID ENOUGH NOW GO ON BACK TO TEXAS AND LET US ALONE
THIS KID MAKES SENSE, BILLY


I RECKON I WAS GETTIN A MITE SWELL HEADED SONNY! I WAS GONNA MAKE THE WHOLE CITY PAY FOR WHAT A FEW CROOKS DID TO ME I'LL DO LIKE YOU SAY, BOY

THE CHECK WAS CASHED BY THE BANKER BILLY THE KID WAS FINISHED WITH ABILENE
MOUNT UP BOYS!
ABILENE
BANK


THE MAN WHO CONQUERED ABILENE LEFT HUMBLED BY A BOY WHO HAD THE COURAGE TO TELL HIM OFF
END

THE DEPUTY SHERIFF

Come on, you Western fans, and get ready for something new! We have asked an Old Timer to give us a hand. He still has his deputy sheriff's badge, can ride a horse, shoot his rifle or six-gun, trail a man and most of all, he knows his West. He will write a special column for this publication. It will consist of answers to questions you may send him about the Old West. Make them brief and to the point. There will be no personal replies but from you letters will be chosen one to be answered in this column in every issue of this publication.

Dear Deputy Sheriff

On TV I saw a very exciting western picture. In one scene a bad man goes into a saloon. He is looking for trouble and he picks on an old man. The bartender bends down, picks up a sawed-off shotgun he has kept behind his bar and he points it at the bad man, who is then forced to leave the place.

What I want to know is this correct? Did the bartenders keep this kind of gun handy? And how else did they use the shotgun out in the West?

Michael N.

Hi, Pardner!

Let us get something straight about a sawed off shotgun. At present this is an illegal weapon. It was made by sawing off a length of the barrel. Actually, the gun was a double barreled affair, so the two barrels were sawed off. A gun file did the trick. In my collection of weapons I have one that is a hundred years old. It is a percussion cap gun. A charge of black powder was used, buckshot used and the percussion caps put into place.

The basic use of a shotgun was to hunt buds. And today you can see the modern shotgun being used by men who hunt anything from wild ducks to pheasants. I have used different types of shotguns but my favorite is still the double barreled one. You can see that the range of such a gun is limited.

Recently I watched a demonstration of shotgun shooting on a police range. It reminded me of the old days in the West because if you shot a man at close range with this, you put him out of action. And if you gave him both barrels, there wasn't much left of him anyway.

The so called shotgun messenger or shotgun guard carried his weapon as he rode next to the driver on the old stagecoach. If somebody fired at him from behind the bush, and he figured out quickly where the man was hiding, his gun was most effective. Then later he might have to use his six-gun.

A most unusual use of the shotgun was made by Wyatt Earp. You may know him as a famous lawman. But he once was a very good buffalo hunter. In those days the buffalo hunters used the heavy Sharps. And remember that some of those rifles weighed more than twenty pounds. You really had to tie two sticks together and set them in the ground rest the heavy rifle on them, aim at the buffalo, and then pull the trigger. Wyatt Earp used a shot gun. He loaded one-and a half ounce slugs to each shell.

Today there are people who go hunting for deer and use slug shells in the shotgun. So they are really doing what Wyatt Earp in a way started. And he did very well as a buffalo hunter.

In the famous fight at the O.K. Corral, Doc Holliday also carried, in addition to his other favorite weapons, a double-barreled shotgun. In that fight he shot with his shotgun at Tom McLowry. He didn't realize at the moment that he had killed the man. He threw away the shotgun and then put his favorite Colt 45 into action.

I have been told that Doc Holliday actually had made for himself on special order to an English gunsmith, two shotgun pistols. At close range you can see how deadly these guns would be in a fight. Now here's something that might surprise you. If the bartender wanted to remain alive and make money, he found it best to stay out of fights in those old days of the West. He might have a six shooter or a rifle or a shotgun hidden, but only for a desperate emergency. Common sense told him to duck for safety when the shooting began.

The Depity Sherrff

If you want to write a letter to the Deputy sherriff address it:

The Deputy Sheriff,
Charlton Comics
Charlton Bldg
Derby, Conn 06418

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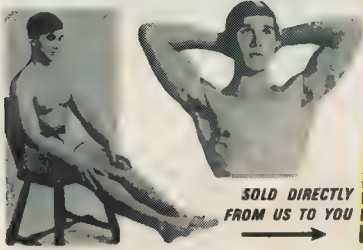

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BOUNTY HUNTER

(FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE OF SHAWN O'MEARA BOUNTY HUNTER...)

DEAR DAD
SURE IT WAS A DEVIL OF A SITUATION I WAS IN ..TRAPPED IN THE DIRTY OLD CARGO HOLD OF A RIVERBOAT, FLAMES LICKING AT ME LIKE I WAS MILK AND THEY WERE PUSSY-CATS, AND ABOVE ON DECK A VILE FELLOW WAS WAITING TO SHOOT ME. LET ME TELL YOU HOW YOUR FAIR-HAIRED BROTH OF A BOY CAME TO BE IN THIS STEW. ..

CREATED AND WRITTEN BY
SERGIUS O'SHAUGNESSY

MADE GRAPHIC BY
PAT BOYETTE

B 1239

AS YOU MAY REMEMBER FROM MY LAST LETTER, I HADN'T BEEN IN AMERICA A MONTH WHEN I FOUND MYSELF FIGHTING AS NASTY A CREW OF RIVER PIRATES AS EVER A MAN SAW... PIKE McGINTY'S MEN...

I HAD NOTHING AGAINST MR. McGINTY UNTIL HE WOUNDED BEN'S DAUGHTER, A LASS BRIGHTER THAN A SPRING MORN AND TWICE AS GENTLE! WELL, THAT PUT A FIRE INTO MY IRISH BLOOD AND I AGREED TO DO THE BOUNTY HUNTING BEN SUGGESTED:

THEN A FINE, UPSTANDING LAWMAN NAME OF BEN AMES TRIED TO TALK ME INTO HUNTING THEM DOWN FOR PAY... WELL, LIVE AND LET LIVE, I TOLD HIM!

I FOUND ONE OF THE VILLAINS AND SWEETLY PERSUADED HIM TO TELL ME WHERE HIS SCUMMY MATES WERE HIDING

...WHICH BRINGS MY STORY UP TO DATE! AFTER DECIDING TO GO AFTER THE PIRATES, I BOOK PASSAGE ON A RIVERBOAT - A FANCY SORT OF A CRAFT!

BEGORRAH, ARE THEY EXPECTIN' THIS OUTSIZED BREADBOX TO FLOAT? STEAMIN' AN' HISSING LIKE IT IS, 'TIS BOUND TO EXPLODE IN A TICK OR TWO!

MOVE OUT OF THE WAY! WE GOT TO GIT THESE BOXES ABOARD!

NO DOUBT, LADDIE - BUT - THE MAN WHO PUSHES ME WITHOUT ADDIN' AN APOLOGY HAS YET TO BE BORN!

FARM

I'LL GIVE YOU ONE CHANCE TO APOLOGIZE.. AFORE I BUST YOU IN THE TEETH!
YEAH? SO BUST ME, WINDBAG!
OOF! YOU'RE NOT THE SACK OF BONES YOU APPEAR! THAT WAS A HARDY BLOW!
I GOT ANOTHER'S EVEN BETTER I'LL GIVE YOU!
NO THANKS! TRY ONE OF MINE!
KLUG
DON'T JUST LIE THERE! C'MON THE FIGHT'S BARELY BEGUN!
NAW.. NAW... YOU WAS RIGHT! I.. I 'POLOGIZE!
. . OLD DAD, LET ME TELL YOU THOSE FUNNY BOATS AMERICANS RIDE ARE FINE ITEMS! THAT NIGHT, THEY SERVE ME A HEARTY DINNER, AND GIVE ME A LOVE LY MEALTIME COMPANION.....
I'M REAL SORRY FELLER SORRY.
..... FAITH SOON'S HE LOOKED INTO THE BOX HIS FACE WENT WHITER THAN A SAINT'S SOUL! HERE'S A PUZZLE FOR YOU, SHAWN LAD! I THINK I'LL HAVE A WEE PEAK AT THOSE FARM TOOLS M'SELF THE FIRST CHANCE I GET!
SURE YOU'LL MAKE SOME LUCKY BUCKO A GRAND WIFE THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S SO MUCH OF YOU TO LOVE!
TEE..HEE.. YOU SAY THE SWEETEST THINGS MR. O'MEARA!

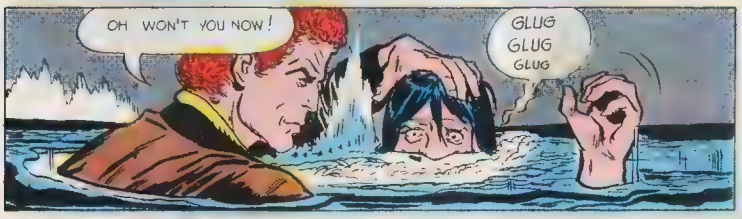
I CAPPED THE EATING WITH A FRAGRANT SMOKE AND A STROLL OUTDOORS! AND THEN....

!
LISTEN, IF I DON'T GET A CUT OF THIS DEAL, I'M GOIN' TO THE MARSHALL!
YOU'LL GIT WHAT'S COMIN' TO YOU, ALL RIGHT... LIKE THIS!
BLAM
IF I HAVE A CORRECT IDEA IN MY HEAD, IT'S THAT THE MURDERED LAD ACCIDENTALLY SAW SOMETHING ILLEGAL WHEN I KNOCKED HIM DOWN! AN' THE MAN WHO GUNNED HIM IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH IT!!
SO MY FRIEND WITH THE FARM TOOL BOX HAS COME TO A BAD END! TIME I HAD A LOOK IN THAT BOX!
..HE JUMPED ME! I HAD TO SHOOT' I THINK I KILLED HIM!
WHA ?

WHAT I'M AFTER SHOULD BE DOWN HERE!
HERE IT IS.. NOW MAYBE I'LL KNOW WHAT'S WORTH A MAN'S LIFE! A FEW WHACKS WITH MY TRUSTY SHILLALAGH! THERE!
WELL I'LL BE JIGGERED! I THINK THE YANKS CALL THIS A GATLING GUN! WITH THIS LITTLE DARLING, A SINGLE GOOD AIM CAN STAND OFF AN ARMY!
PUT IT BACK, MISTER!
I DIDN'T THINK YOU FELL FOR MY SELF-DEFENSE STORY UP THERE ON DECK!
BEFORE YOU USE THAT PISTOL.. FAVOR ME WITH A WEE BIT OF INFORMATION! HOW DOES A BIG BANGER OF AN AUTOMATIC GUN COME TO BE SITTIN' IN A FARM TOOL'S SEAT?
SURE, I'LL TELL YOU! THAT GUN WAS STOLEN FROM THE ARMY! I'M GOING TO SELL IT TO ... PIKE McGINTY!

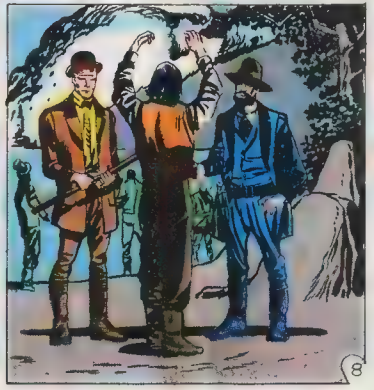
McGINTY! THE VERY MAN I'M CHASIN'
I'M GOING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU SHOT YOURSELF!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER!
TOOK THE BUGGER BY SURPRISE, I DID! NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO STAY ALIVE 'TILL THE SOUND OF HIS PISTOL BRINGS HELP!
BUT, FATE BROUGHT INTO THE GAME AT THAT POINT . FOR HIS STRAY BULLETS PUT HOLES IN SOME BARRELS OF KEROSINE NEARBY
AND A SECOND LATER THE ROOM IS FIERCE FURNACE,
KLAK
SO THERE I AM, FRYIN' LIKE A FISH ON FRIDAY, WITH NO PLACE TO GO THAT WON'T GET ME KILLED! UP ON DECK, I CAN HEAR SOMEBODY YELL FIRE, AND PEOPLE RUNNING TOWARD THE BOATS IN THE CONFUSION, NO ONE'LL THINK TO LOOK DOWN WHERE I AM

THEN I SPOT A LIFE SAVER IN THE FORM OF A FINE LONG-HANDLED AXE...
I CAN'T GO THROUGH THE DOOR....
...SO I'LL MAKE MY OWN
A FEW SECONDS OF LUSTY WORK, AND I HAVE ME A HOLE! I PICK UP MY SHILLELAGH AND PREPARE TO TAKE MY LEAVE....
THERE'S MY WOULD-BE KILLER, STILL STANDING THERE!
HUH?
WHOP



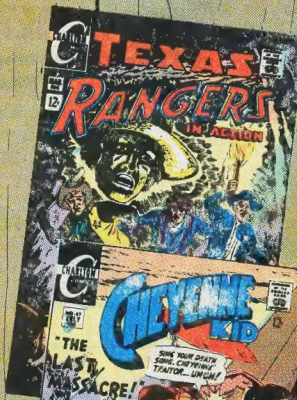
ALL ALL RIGHT WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
WHO YOU ARE WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET McGINTY AN' ANYTHING ELSE PERTAININ' TO YOUR DEAL WITH HIM

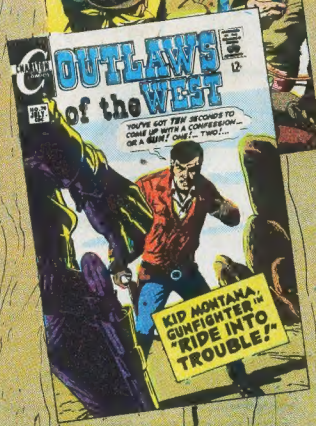
HE TELLS ME WHAT I NEEDED TO KNOW, AND I HANDED HIM OVER TO A LAWMAN ! THEN I MADE PREPARATIONS ..



I BUY A FEW THINGS I'M NEEDING.. A BUCKBOARD, HORSES, AND A BIG BOX! THEN I SET OUT.
ACCORDIN' TO THAT WATER RAT, McGINTY'LL BE WAITIN' AT THE CROSSROADS NEAR HIS CAMP....
IF HE WASN'T LYIN'- HE'S NEVER MET McGINTY! SO I SHOULD PASS AS HIM LONG ENOUGH TO GET INSIDE McGINTY'S CAMP....
AN HOUR PASSES, AND I'M WAITING AT THE APPOINTED SPOT!
SOMEONE'S MOVIN' IN THE BRUSH BEHIND ME! IT'S A HARD THING NOT TO LAY INTO THEM! BUT, I'VE GOT TO BE A CAGEY IRISHMAN FOR THE TIME BEIN'!
DON'T MOVE DUDE!
I THINK NOT, LADDIE! AFTER ALL, I'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR YOU!
I'VE GOT THE GATLING IN THAT CRATE! NOW IF YOU'LL BE TAKIN' ME TO SEE MR Mc GINTY WE'LL CONCLUDE OUR TRANS ACTION!
YOU DON'T HAVE TA GO NO PLACE TO SEE McGINTY
... CAUSE I'M RIGHT HERE! THAT GUN AS GOOD AS YOUR LETTER SAID?
I GUARANTEE SIR, THAT THE CONTENTS OF THAT BOX ARE IN PERFECTLY DARLIN' SHAPE!
WHICH IS TRUE. THE CONTENT'S OF THAT BOX A BUNDLE OF STICKS, THOUGH, AND NOT THE NOISY TOY HE'S EXPECTIN'!
OBVIOUSLY I CAN'T BE WRITING ANY MORE JUST NOW! I'M ABOUT TO GO INTO McGINTY'S CAMP...AND WHEN I'M THERE? WELL, I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT I HOPE!
LOVE
SHAWN

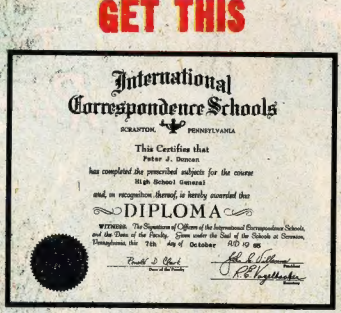
THE OLD WEST QUICK-GUN EXCITEMENT!





IF YOU MISSED THIS

GET THIS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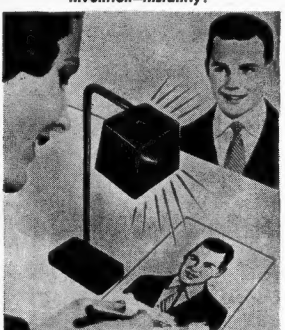

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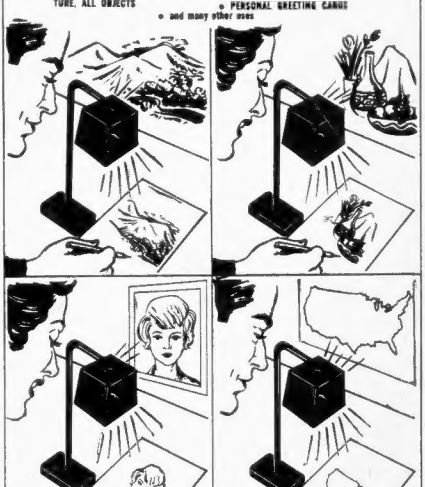

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